Core Switch Virtual Channel



Overview

VPC or Virtual Port Channel is a Cisco proprietary feature available on the Nexus platform. Two switches of the same model can be combined into a VPC pair, which can establish a single EtherChannel, also known as a link aggregate or a port channel, across both switches to a third. This chapter describes how to configure virtual port channels (vPCs) on Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switches. It contains the following sections: A virtual port channel (vPC) allows links that are physically connected to two different Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switches or Cisco Nexus 2000 Series Fabric. Cisco's Virtual Port Channel (vPC) is a technology that delivers a high degree of redundancy, providing mission-critical enterprise and datacenter networks with the level of availability they demand. In this article, we'll explore this technology further to understand how it works, how it differs. Port Channel and Virtual Port Channel (vPC) are both technologies used in networking to aggregate multiple physical links into a single logical link for increased bandwidth and redundancy. They are related, but they have some key, distinct differences in terms of architecture and use cases. The third device can be a switch, server, or any other networking device that supports port channels.

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Article Content

Sep 23, 2025

VSS-Enabled Campus Best Practice Configuration Example

switch mode virtual switch 1 priority 110 ! Not needed, helps in operational mgmt switch 2 priority 100 ! Not needed, helps in operational mgmt dual-active exclude interface GigabitEthernet1/5/3 !

Jun 16, 2026

Virtual Port Channels

A virtual port channel (vPC) allows links that are physically connected to two different Cisco Nexus 7000 or 9000 Series devices to appear as a single

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Cisco Nexus 5000 Series NX-OS Layer 2 Switching Configuration Guide

This chapter contains the following sections: Information About vPCs Guidelines and Limitations for vPCs Configuring vPCs Configuring the vPC Peer Switch Verifying the vPC Configuration vPC

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Virtual switching system (VSS) Configuration For Cisco

Introduction The Cisco Virtual Switching System is a clustering technology that pools two Cisco Catalyst 4500-E Series Switches with Cisco

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Integrating the Virtual Switching System in Cisco Data

Key Concepts Virtual Switch Domain Virtual Switch Link (VSL) Multichassis EtherChannel (MEC) Cisco Data Center Architecture Integrated

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Understand Virtual Port Channel (vPC) Enhancements

This document describes details surrounding common Virtual Port Channel (vPC) enhancements configured on Cisco Nexus switches in a vPC

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Configuring Virtual Port Channels

To create a vPC peer link you configure an EtherChannel on one Cisco Nexus device by using two or more Ethernet ports. On the other switch, you configure another EtherChannel again using two or

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Configuring Virtual Port Channels [Cisco Nexus 5000

A virtual port channel (vPC) allows links that are physically connected to two different Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switches or Cisco Nexus 2000 Series Fabric Extender s

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Understanding Virtual Port Channel (vPC) Basics

As I go through the Cisco CCNP Data Center DCCOR (350-601) certification material, virtual Port Channel (vPC) quickly emerged as one of the

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Configuring Virtual Port Channels

A virtual port channel (vPC) allows links that are physically connected to two different Cisco Nexus 9000 Series devices to appear as a single port channel by a third device (see figure). The third device can

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How to Configure VSS on Cisco Catalyst Switches

How to Configure VSS on Cisco Catalyst Switches Virtual Switching System (VSS) transforms multiple Cisco Catalyst switches into a single logical switch, increasing operational

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Design and Configuration Guide: Best Practices for Virtual Port ...

A virtual port channel (vPC) allows links that are physically connected to two different Cisco Nexus 7000 Series devices to appear as a single port channel to a third device. The third device can be a switch,

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StackWise Virtual Configuration on Catalyst 9606R

StackWise Virtual Design In addition to giving you the commands to configure StackWise Virtual on the 9606R switches, I will show you how to select

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Cisco 6500 VSS Configuration Example

The Virtual Switching System (VSS) allows two Cisco Catalyst 6500 or 4500 chassis to bond together so that is seen as a single virtual switch to the rest of the network. Other devices will see the VSS

May 01, 2026

Configure Virtual Switch with an EtherChannel (or port channel)

This article provides configuration information when using an EtherChannel (or port channel) for connectivity between ESXi hosts and Physical Network Switches on a vSphere Standard Switch

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Virtual Port Channels > Port Channels and vPCs | Cisco Press

Virtual Port Channels A virtual port channel (vPC) allows links that are physically connected to two different Cisco Nexus 7000 or 9000 Series devices to appear as a single port channel by a third

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A detailed discussion of On-Chip Networks with Virtual Channels

Ironically, although Virtual Channels reduce some bus bandwith, their impact optimizes network bandwidth by adding concurrency into the interconnect path from the initiator core to the target, such

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Design and Configuration Guide: Best Practices for Virtual Port ...

Design and Configuration Guide: Best Practices for Virtual Port Channels (vPC) on Cisco Nexus Series Switches Revised: Mar 2021

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Chapter: Virtual Switching Systems (VSS)

VSS mode combines a pair of switches into a single network element. VSS mode manages the redundant links, which externally act as a single port

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Virtual Port Channels > Port Channels and vPCs | Cisco Press

In this sample chapter from Cisco Data Center Fundamentals, the authors discuss Ethernet port channels, including port channel modes, port channel compatibility requirements, and port channel

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Virtual Port Channels

The failure of a single switch will still cause an outage for the bundle of links. Virtual Port Channels, or vPC''s, are an extension to EtherChannels. They are one

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Cisco VPC (Virtual Port Channel) Basics

Cisco VPC (Virtual Port Channel) Basics VPC Overview VPC or Virtual Port Channel is a Cisco proprietary feature available on the Nexus platform. Two switches of

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Conning the system: Virtual Port Channels...just for fun!

Virtualport channels are the tricksters of the networking world. They were originally developed as a con game, way to link two switches together and fool the rest of

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Understanding Port Channel and Virtual Port Channel (vPC)

It extends the capabilities of traditional port channels by allowing a single logical Port Channel to span across two switches, offering superior redundancy, availability, and performance in

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Cisco VPC (Virtual Port Channel) Basics

VPC or Virtual Port Channel is a Cisco proprietary feature available on the Nexus platform. Two switches of the same model can be combined into a VPC pair,

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